Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 18 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 19 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 17 Jan 2024 at 13:17

Confidence: High for settled and cold Thursday, also for turning very windy as winds back to the west for the weekend, lifting freezing levels and bringing Atlantic fronts through the country, but medium for the transitional detail.

Headline for Thursday 18 Jan 2024: Dry, sunny but feeling very with brisk summit winds combining with very low freezing levels to bring a severe wind chill effect.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 18 Jan 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Clear night	Clear night	Clear night	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Clear night	Clear night
Precipitation probability							
00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	00%

Forecast for Thursday 18 Jan 2024

Weather: A cold, dry day with little or no cloud affording prolonged periods of weak winter sunshine. Some chance of freezing fog lingering around the foothills early and late in the day.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Virtually 100%

Low cloud and visibility: Very good or excellent visibility. Little or no cloud.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Thursday 18 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	18/22 N	23/27 N	23/28 N	20/24 N	16/20 NW	21/26 NW	24/30 NW	21/27 NW	19/25 W
600	14/20 N	15/22 N	16/22 N	13/18 N	10/14 NW	15/22 NW	15/23 NW	15/22 NW	17/25 W
300	5/16 N	6/18 N	6/19 N	5/17 N	3/13 NW	5/17 NW	6/22 NW	6/19 NW	7/20 W
Valley	7/19 N	8/21 N	10/24 N	8/19 N	3/12 NW	7/19 NW	9/23 NW	7/19 NW	8/19 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-7/-15	-7/-16	-7/-16	-7/-15	-6/-13	-6/-14	-6/-15	-6/-14	-6/-14
600	-6/-12	-6/-14	-6/-14	-6/-12	-4/-9	-4/-10	-5/-12	-4/-11	-4/-11
300	-4/-7	-4/-8	-5/-9	-4/-8	-2/-4	-2/-4	-3/-7	-3/-7	-2/-6
Valley	-2/-5	-1/-6	-2/-6	-1/-5	2/-0	2/-1	0/-4	0/-3	1/-2
Freezing Level*	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Main consideration for today is the severe wind chill effect.

Forecast for Friday 19 Jan 2024

Weather: Cloudier than Thursday with a few light showers on a mainly dry, occasionally bright day. Gradually turning milder with winds now backed west to southwest gradually lifting the freezing level.

Maximum wind: West to southwest mean 25-30mph with gusts reaching 45mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70%

Low cloud and visibility: Very good or excellent briefly moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases occasionally lowering to 700m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 7 Celsius increasing plus 4 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 5 Celsius increasing Minus 1 Celsius during the evening
Freezing level: Surface lifting 600m during evening

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 17 January 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report: Winter has returned to the Lakeland fells and valleys! There is quite a contrast in underfoot conditions with the dividing line at approximately 500m. Below this height, most noticeably at and around valley level, there has been a thaw/hard freeze. This has resulted in hard snow and ice especially where the snow has been compacted on popular routes – including pavements and untreated roads. Above 500m, the snow is soft and there is little to no ice. Snow depth rises with height although, as ever, actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on windswept areas – such as the tops of some SW facing slopes – to deep drifts easily able to swallow a 60cm ice axe. The deepest drifts are in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep north and especially east facing slopes. 4 to 5cm deep windslab (unstable snow) was also present in such areas. The snow at altitude was non-weight bearing and breaking trail through the deeper drifts was heavy going. Extra time and Kendal Mint cake (other calorific snacks are available) should be allowed for this. Cornices have formed above steep north and especially east facing slopes – noticeably above Helvellyn's east face. There were footprints far too close to this edge – especially by Helvellyn's Trig point. If ascending from the popular western (Thirlmere) side it is not immediately obvious that the edge is corniced so please keep well clear of such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise – honestly, they WILL thank you for it! Upland tarns, such as Red Tarn, have either partially or fully frozen but are highly unlikely to be safe to walk on. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. Owing to the amount of ice on paths at lower elevations, microspikes and walking poles were the tools of choice today and are strongly recommended – especially in descent. Crampons and ice axe are essential for those attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes together with winter mountaineering experience including the ability to assess the stability, or otherwise, of snow slopes. With the forecast for Thursday looking similar to Wednesday's conditions, hopefully sunglasses will also be essential. With virtually no wind on the summit today at around midday walkers were enjoying their lunches out in the open ignoring the summit shelter so come properly equipped with plenty of layers and enjoy these magnificent conditions while they last! For once, in the sun, it felt warmer than the weather stats suggest! Temperature: minus 5.7 C, Maximum wind speed 5.3mph, Wind chill: minus 9.9 C, Average wind speed: 1.9 mph

Issued at: 1317 on Wed 17 Jan 2024

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